

Ramstad	Sensenbrenner	Tiahrt
Regula	Sessions	Tiberi
Rehberg	Shadegg	Turner
Reichert	Shays	Upton
Renzi	Shimkus	Walberg
Reynolds	Shuster	Walden (OR)
Rogers (AL)	Simpson	Walsh (NY)
Rogers (KY)	Smith (NE)	Wamp
Rogers (MI)	Smith (NJ)	Weldon (FL)
Rohrabacher	Smith (TX)	Weller
Ros-Lehtinen	Souder	Whitfield
Roskam	Stearns	Wicker
Royce	Sullivan	Wilson (NM)
Ryan (WI)	Tancredo	Wilson (SC)
Sali	Taylor	Wolf
Saxton	Terry	Young (AK)
Schmidt	Thornberry	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—24

Bishop (UT)	Hastert	Marchant
Boren	Hobson	McCarthy (NY)
Buyer	Israel	McCollum (MN)
Carson	Jindal	Nunes
Crenshaw	Jones (NC)	Oberstar
Cubin	LaHood	Paul
Davis, Lincoln	Lantos	Westmoreland
Everett	Lungren, Daniel	
Giffords	E.	

□ 1344

Mr. BUCHANAN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. WATERS changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Friday, November 9, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall 1077—“nay”; rollcall 1078—“nay”; rollcall 1079—“nay”; rollcall 1080—“yea”; rollcall 1081—“nay.”

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1429, IMPROVING HEAD START FOR SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2007

Mr. KILDEE (during consideration of H.R. 3996) submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 1429) to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 110-439)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1429), to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
 Sec. 2. Statement of purpose.
 Sec. 3. Definitions.
 Sec. 4. Financial assistance for Head Start programs.
 Sec. 5. Authorization of appropriations.
 Sec. 6. Allotment of funds; limitations on assistance.
 Sec. 7. Designation of Head Start agencies.
 Sec. 8. Standards; monitoring of Head Start agencies and programs.
 Sec. 9. Powers and functions of Head Start agencies.
 Sec. 10. Head start transition and alignment with K–12 education.
 Sec. 11. Early childhood education, coordination, and improvement.
 Sec. 12. Submission of plans.
 Sec. 13. Administrative requirements and standards.
 Sec. 14. Participation in Head Start programs.
 Sec. 15. Early Head Start programs.
 Sec. 16. Appeals, notice, and hearing.
 Sec. 17. Records and audits.
 Sec. 18. Technical assistance and training.
 Sec. 19. Staff qualifications and development.
 Sec. 20. Research, demonstrations, and evaluation.
 Sec. 21. Reports.
 Sec. 22. Comparability of wages.
 Sec. 23. Limitation with respect to certain unlawful activities.
 Sec. 24. Political activities.
 Sec. 25. Parental consent requirement for health services.
 Sec. 26. Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood.
 Sec. 27. General provisions.
 Sec. 28. Compliance with Improper Payments Information Act of 2002.
 Sec. 29. References in other Acts.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 636 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 636. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this subchapter to promote the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development—

“(1) in a learning environment that supports children’s growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning, creative arts, physical skills, and approaches to learning; and

“(2) through the provision to low-income children and their families of health, educational, nutritional, social, and other services that are determined, based on family needs assessments, to be necessary.”

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(including a community-based organization, as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801))” after “nonprofit”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “, and financial literacy.” after “self-sufficiency”;

(3) in paragraph (12), by striking “migrant and seasonal Head Start program” and inserting “migrant or seasonal Head Start program”;

(4) by striking paragraph (17) and inserting the following:

“(17) The term ‘State’ means a State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The term includes the Republic of Palau for fiscal years 2008 and 2009, and (if the legislation described in section 640(a)(2)(B)(v) has not been enacted by September 30, 2009) for fiscal years 2010 through 2012.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(18) The term ‘deficiency’ means—

“(A) a systemic or substantial material failure of an agency in an area of performance that the Secretary determines involves—

“(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of children or staff;

“(ii) a denial to parents of the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to program operations;

“(iii) a failure to comply with standards related to early childhood development and health services, family and community partnerships, or program design and management;

“(iv) the misuse of funds received under this subchapter;

“(v) loss of legal status (as determined by the Secretary) or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds; or

“(vi) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the agency has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified;

“(B) systemic or material failure of the governing body of an agency to fully exercise its legal and fiduciary responsibilities; or

“(C) an unresolved area of noncompliance.

“(19) The term ‘homeless children’ has the meaning given the term ‘homeless children and youths’ in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

“(20) The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

“(21) The term ‘interrater reliability’ means the extent to which 2 or more independent raters or observers consistently obtain the same result when using the same assessment tool.

“(22) The term ‘limited English proficient’, used with respect to a child, means a child—

“(A)(i) who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English;

“(ii)(I) who is a Native American (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), an Alaska Native, or a native resident of an outlying area (as defined in such section 9101); and

“(II) who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the child’s level of English language proficiency; or

“(iii) who is migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and

“(B) whose difficulties in speaking or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny such child—

“(i) the ability to successfully achieve in a classroom in which the language of instruction is English; or

“(ii) the opportunity to participate fully in society.

“(23) The term ‘principles of scientific research’ means principles of research that—

“(A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objective methodology to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to education activities and programs;

“(B) present findings and make claims that are appropriate to and supported by methods that have been employed; and

“(C) include, as appropriate to the research being conducted—

“(i) use of systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;

“(ii) use of data analyses that are adequate to support the general findings;

“(iii) reliance on measurements or observational methods that provide reliable and generalizable findings;

“(iv) strong claims of causal relationships, only with research designs that eliminate plausible competing explanations for observed results, such as, but not limited to, random assignment experiments;

“(v) presentation of studies and methods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow for replication or, at a minimum, to offer the opportunity to build systematically on the findings of the research;